

Dear Ms. Tarbuck,

At the public hearing on February 28th, I listened to all the pro and con testimony concerning the Juniper Ridge Landfill Expansion application by Casella Waste Systems.

My main and Maine concerns are the maintenance of our aquifers, water quality for future generations and the Penobscot River restoration. As Maine citizens I know we can do more in the way of recycling, composting, and energy production from waste to reduce the amount of garbage that needs to be dumped in a landfill, as noted in the standards under the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy. We fight a huge battle in our society of excesses in consumerism, packaging, and waste. Dealing with our waste has become big business with employment opportunities and profits to be distributed to community concerns to offset any negative impacts a landfill has on neighboring communities. I also have read enough of accidents that happen across the country with declared secure pipelines and leach-proof barriers to know that no matter how much we are assured by Casella that their system is fool proof, we'd be foolish to accept this as an absolute.

Expansion at Juniper Ridge Landfill has been an on-going concern for many years. I have followed those who have done extensive research on the environmental impact of landfills and attended hearings where statements by Casella management have been brought into question. I listened carefully to all the testimony on the 28th and while I understand the motives behind all those who work for, contract with, and partner in the waste industry, I question the motives of a company that makes promises to municipalities before an approval for expansion has been granted, as though the DEP will automatically support it.

I have recently learned that the JRL leachate is going to the Brewer wastewater treatment plant which provides more thorough processing than the Old Town mill's treatment plant. This change appears to be a much better solution for the sake of the Penobscot River.

My hope is that the DEP will act for the sake of future generations and the environment, not solely to appease a perceived need for Casella to meet promised obligations. Maine communities need to be finding ways to deal with their unprocessed waste closer to home, not contracting to have it trucked to other parts of the state. And no matter how much profit can be made, Maine should not allow our environment to be a receptacle for out-of-state waste nor send our waste out of state.

I urge you to deny the expansion application. Thank you for considering my comments.

Katherine Greenman
Orland, Maine since 2014
Resident of Old Town, 1978-2014